

‘Music in the key of science:’ Young Composers present New Songs for Midwinter Concert Saturday

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Music in the Mountains cornerstone music education program Young Composers Project will present its New Songs for Midwinter Concert Saturday at Peace Lutheran Church in Grass Valley.

New Songs for Midwinter is a special concert premiering nine brand new songs.

The focus for this composition project was having students read and research poetry and poets. Looking for a poem that speaks to them and then setting that poem to original new music. Some of the poets students chose were: Mary Oliver (who just passed away on January 17 this year), E. E. Cummings, John Keats, Shel Silverstein, Robert Frost, Archibald MacLeish and more. These new songs will be performed for the first time by some of Nevada County's finest musicians. This unique, singular music composition program is for students in junior high through college ages. The project kicks off early in the school year with youth participating in both Saturday classes and private lessons with composer/teacher Mark Vance. Young Composers Project curriculum includes: music software notation, melodic and rhythmic dictation, music theory and harmony, music history, conducting, public speaking and composition.

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WHAT: Music in the Mountains presents Young Composers Project – New Songs for Midwinter Concert

WHEN: Saturday, February 2, 2019, 2 p.m. Matinee

WHERE: Peace Lutheran Church, 828 West Main Street, Grass Valley

TICKETS: \$10/Adults, Youth 17 and under free

INFO: <http://www.musicinthemountains.org>

"Art does not exist in a vacuum. (The) students learn about important aspects of our community, becoming more informed and educated citizens. They then use their new found knowledge to create brilliant new music," said Vance.

Students present a mid-year recital of their original compositions for voice and one instrument of choice at the New Songs for Midwinter concert. Each year's program culminates with the Young Composers Concerts, where student works are premiered by professional instrumentalists as part of Music in the Mountain's SummerFest.

Each year Young Composers Project partners with a local non-profit organization. Last year, they collaborated with the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) and learned about the health and welfare of Nevada County watersheds including Yuba and Bear Rivers. Students volunteered at the Wild and Scenic Film Fest, traveled to Sacramento to attend the Sacramento Water Council's hearing on water storage, attended a protest rally against the proposed Centennial Dam project and learned about the California water law and the importance of environmental advocacy.